Foreign exchange spent on technical know-how

2896. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large sum of foreign exchange is spent every year to finance the imports of technical know-how by the Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, what amount was spent on this account during the Sixth Plan period and how much amount has been spent so far during the current plan period; and

(c) what are the broad norms fixed by Government for approving such out-go of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Proposal to open more Kerosene outlets in Rajasthan

2897. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of Kerosene outlets are inadequate in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to open more kerosene outlets in the State; and

(c) what steps have been taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No, Sir. Oil companies are meeting the present kerosene requirements of Rajasthan adequately through their 220 existing SKO-LDO dealers in that State.

(b) and (c) In addition to the above, upto the Annual Kerosene Marketing Plans 1987-88, the oil industry has planned to set up 20 more SKO-LDO dealerships in Rajasthan to meet its future kerosene requirements.

Withdrawal of subsidy with retrospective effect from certain industries

2898. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have recently withdrawn the subsidy with retrospective effect in respect of certain industries like drilling rigs, automatic bakeries etc.: and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided to withdraw subsidy for non-manufacturing activities. In the case of drilling rigs, in particular, it is a footloose activity and therefore, it has been decided to discontinue the subsidy.

HMT's proposal to diversify into low priority food processing industry

2899. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Machine Tools, a central public sector undertaking has proposed to diversify into low priority food processing industry;

(b) whether such diversification will not be in contravention of the Indian Industrial Policy; and

(c) what is the decision taken by Government in the matter and what are the names of other public sector undertakings,

if any, which have diversified propose to diversify into areas otherwise reserved for small and medium industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) HMT presently has no proposal to diversify into the field of food processing. They may, however, take up manufacture of machinery and equipment required by the food processing industries for which priority is being given by the Government the company will follow the policy of the Government with regard to reservation of industries for the Small Scale Sector while taking up new schemes for diversification.

Housing problems of the employees of ONGC in Bombay

2900. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated the 6th November, 1988 wherein it has been stated that the multi-crore Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) Panvel Complex which was built to ease the housing problems of its employees working in the Bombay region and to improve their efficiency, has become a source of favouritism and nepotism, resulting in a dramatic fall in production and much heart burning amongst the personnel;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in the matter; and

(c) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Government have seen the news report and consider that it does not accurately reflect the factual position.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Illegal sale of LPG cylinders in Lawrance Road Industrial Area, Delhi

2901. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that an illegal sale and purchase of L.P.G. cylinders, empty and duly filled with Gas, has been carrying on on a very large scale for the last two years in connivance with the LPG dealers in Lawrance Road Industrial Area, Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in Lawrance Road Area L.P.G. Cylinders are being sold at very exorbitant prices and are sent to other States for onward resale at a very high price; and

(c) if so, what action Government have since taken to stop this illegal trade by getting investigation through vigilance agency of the Petroleum Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The Liqueified Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 1988 has been issued by the Government to check any such malpractices.

Plans for the revival of sick industrial units in Goa

2902. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan has been prepared by IDBI for the revival of sick industrial units in Goa; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.